1: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal

these vices occasion frequent quarrels and wars among them
sometimes with their neighbours, not from a desire of increasing 578
their power, but from some other causes; such as the carrying 583
off their provisions, or rather their girls, which is frequently
practised as the most summary method of procuring a wife.

Their trade is likewise not so much calculated for the acquisition 439
of riches as for procuring the necessaries and conveniencies of life.
They sell the *Koreki* sables, fox and white dog skins, dried
mushroons, or such trifles; and receive in exchange cloaths made
of deer-skins and other hides: among themselves they exchange 438
what they abound with for what they want, as dogs, boats, dishes,
troughs, nets, hemp, yarn, and provisions. This kind of barter 437
is carried on under a great shew of friendship; for when one 576
wants any thing that another has, he goes freely to visit him, and
without any ceremony makes known his wants, although perhaps he
never had any acquaintance with that person before: the landlord
is obliged to behave according to the custom of the country;
and bringing whatever his guest has occasion for, gives it him.
He afterwards returns the visit, and must be received in the same
manner; so that both parties have their wants supplied.

Their manners are quite rude: they never use any civil ex- 576
pression or salutation; never take off their caps, nor bow to one 157
another; and their discourse is stupid, and betrays the most con-
summate ignorance; and yet they are in some degree curious, and
inquisitive upon many occasions.

They have filled almost every place in heaven and earth with 771
different spirits, which they both worship and fear more than
God: they offer them sacrifices upon every occasion, and some
carry little idols about them, or have them placed in their
dwellings; but, with regard to God, they not only neglect to
worship him; but, in case of troubles and misfortunes, they
curse and blaspheme him.

They keep no account of their age, though they can count as 802
far as one hundred; but this is so troublesome to them that

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paid in furrs of different ſorts. In fine, the exchange of goods with the *Kamtſchadales* and *Chineſe* is ſo profitable, that, notwithſtanding all expences occaſioned by the diſtance, dearneſs of tranſport, and other difficulties, we may reckon that a 1000 rubles will produce 4000, provided they remain but one year in *Kamtſchatka*; but if they remain longer, there is a conſiderable loſs. The reaſons of this are, firſt, that upon their arrival, being flattered with the high prices of things, they ſell every thing, even their own cloaths and proviſions, hoping ſoon to leave the country, in which if diſappointed, they are obliged to buy them back again at double price: ſecondly, that the furrs by lying, loſe their colour and value: thirdly, that the place is exceſſively expenſive in regard to lodging, warehouſe-room, victuals, and ſeveral other particulars.

Goods demanded in *Kamtſchatka*, beſides the natural produce of *Ruſſia*, are *European* goods, from *Siberia*, *Bobaria*, and the *Calmuks*. From *Europe* they receive coarſe cloaths of various colours, linen, ſerges, knives, ſilk and cotton handkerchiefs, red wine, a little ſugar, tobacco, and ſeveral toys. From *Siberia*, iron, ſeveral iron and copper veſſels, and inſtruments, ſuch as knives, hatchets, ſaws, and fire-ſteels; alſo wax, hemp, yarn for nets, tanned deer-ſkins, coarſe *Ruſſian* linen and cloth. From *Bobaria*, and the country of the *Calmuks*, they bring ſeveral different ſorts of cotton goods. From *China*, ſeveral ſilk and cotton ſtuffs, tobacco, coral, and needles, which are much preferred to thoſe from *Ruſſia*. From the *Koreki* they receive great quantities of rein-deer-ſkins, both dreſſed and undreſſed, which they may ſell in what quantities they pleaſe at any time. Merchants muſt take care not to have too great a ſtock of any other goods; for the inhabitants of this place, *Ruſſians* as well as natives, never buy any thing before they are in abſolute want of it, even if they could buy it at half price.

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441 The goods ſold at *Kamtſchatka* at prime-coſt ſcarcely exceed 10 or 12,000 rubles, but the ſales amount to 30 or 40,000 rubles; and if a merchant carries theſe *Kamtſchatka* goods to the fair upon the frontiers of *China*, he may receive double the price he buys them at; ſo that this commerce may eaſily appear to be very advantageous.

439 651 437 The goods that are brought out of *Kamtſchatka* conſiſt of furrs, ſuch as ſea beavers', ſables', foxes', and a few otters' ſkins. As there was formerly no money in this country, the way of trading was in exchange for furrs; and now they have money, they fix the price by the ſkins, reckoning a good fox-ſkin at a ruble. All goods brought out of *Kamtſchatka* pay 10 per cent. duty, but the ſables 12.

CHAP. VIII.

600 *The Different* ROADS *between* Jakutſki *and* Kamtſchatka.

THOUGH it may at firſt appear needleſs to mention all the different roads to *Kamtſchatka*, eſpecially as ſeveral of them are now no more uſed, yet, upon due conſideration it will be found to ſerve for an illuſtration of the different ſettlements of the *Ruſſian* colonies, and to ſhew what people are ſubject and pay taxes to each of theſe ſettlements. It will alſo explain the manner of reducing theſe people and making them tributary, and deſcribe the difficulties of this journey, although there had been no danger from an enemy, in which the tax-gatherers were continually expoſed to hunger and cold in an unknown country, whereby many of them loſt their lives. The Coſſacks were only able to make this journey

7:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal

563 proviſions ſent from Okotſk, and convey them from the mouth of the Bolchaïa-reka to Bolcheretſk. The reſt of the inhabitants are compoſed of merchants and ſailors.

563 437 273 Theſe people, Ruſſians and Coſſacs, together with a mixed breed found among them, carry on a clandeſtine commerce, ſometimes in one article, and ſometimes in another; it varies as often as they ſee any reaſon for changing it; but it is never with a view of enriching themſelves by honeſt means. Their induſtry is a continual knaviſhneſs; it is ſolely employed in cheating the poor Kamtſchadales, whoſe credulity and inſuperable propenſity to drunkenneſs, leave them entirely at the mercy of theſe dangerous plunderers. Like our mountebanks, and other knaves of this kind, they go from village to village to inveigle the too ſilly natives: they propoſe to ſell them brandy, which they artfully preſent to them

7: Lesseps T-3 (1787-88) 1790 Kamchadal

563 to taſte. It is almoſt impoſſible for a Kamt-
437 ſchadale, male or female, to refuſe this offer.
273 The firſt eſſay is followed by many others; preſently their heads become affected, they are intoxicated, and the craft of the tempters ſucceed. No ſooner are they arrived to a ſtate of inebriety, than theſe pilferers know how to obtain from them the barter of their moſt valuable effects, that is, their whole ſtock of furs, frequently the fruit of the labour of a whole ſeaſon, which was to enable them to pay their tribute to the crown, and procure perhaps ſubſiſtance for a whole family. But no conſideration can ſtop a Kamtſchadale drunkard; every thing is forgotten, every thing is ſacrificed to the gratification of his appetite, and the momentary pleaſure of ſwallowing a few glaſſes of brandy*, reduces

* This is well known to be the ruling paſſion of all the people of the north; but I have had more than one occaſion to obſerve, that the Kamtſchadales are inferior in this reſpect

7: Lesseps T-3 (1787-88) 1790 Kamchadal

437 duces him to the utmoſt wretchedneſs.
273 Nor is it poſſible for the moſt painful expe-
563 rience to put them on their guard againſt their own weakneſs, or the cunning perfidy of theſe traders, who in their turn drink,

reſpect to none of them. The following ſtory, among others, was told me, that I might be able to judge of the rapacity of theſe vagabond traders, and the ſtupid prodigality of their dupes.

A Kamtſchadale had given a ſable for a glaſs of brandy. Inflamed with a deſire of drinking another, he invited the ſeller into his houſe. The merchant thanked him, but ſaid he was in a hurry. The Kamtſchadale renewed his ſolicitations, and propoſed a ſecond bargain: he prevailed.—"Come, another glaſs for this ſable, it is a finer "one than the firſt.—No; I muſt keep the reſt of my "brandy; I have promiſed to ſell it at ſuch a place, and I "muſt be gone.—Stay a moment; here are two ſables.—"'Tis all in vain.—Well, come, I will add another.—"Agreed, drink." Meanwhile the three ſables are ſeized, and the hypocrite makes a freſh pretence to come away: his hoſt redoubles his importunities to retain him, and demands a third glaſs: further refuſals and further offers: the higher the chapman raiſes his price, the more the Kamtſchadale is prodigal of his furs. Who would have ſuppoſed that it would have ended in the ſacrifice of ſeven moſt beautiful ſables for this laſt glaſs! they were all he had.

7:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal

273 in like manner, all the profits of their
437 knavery.

273 I ſhall terminate the article of commerce
435 by adding, that the perſons who deal moſt
439 in wholeſale, are merely agents of the merchants of Totma, Vologda, Grand Uſtiug, and different towns of Siberia, or the factors of other opulent traders, who extend even to this diſtant country their commercial ſpeculations.

All the wares and proviſions, which neceſſity obliges them to purchaſe from the magazines, are ſold exceſſively dear, and at about ten times the current price at Moſcow. A *vedro** of French brandy coſts eighty roubles†. The merchants are al-

* A Ruſſian meaſure containing from fifteen to twenty quarts.

† Eighteen pounds ſterling, eſtimating the rouble at four ſhillings and ſixpence.

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29:Cochrane T-2(1821-22)1824 Kamchadal

sum of money to pay travelling expenses, it seems very strange that such money is not paid to these poor people. As little can I understand why a post should travel gratis: surely the poorest and most distant part of the Russian empire, should not be oppressed in such a manner. It is true, the sum paid by the government to officers when travelling is small, as well as that paid to the postillion when in charge of the post; but small as it is in itself, it would be acceptable to those to whom it would appear much. As to officers' travelling, for which there is no public necessity, they can at best but reap the advantages belonging to the fair trader, who is not inconsiderably taxed. I have heard an officer of high rank assert, that every voyage from Kamtchatka to Okotsk and back again, was worth ten thousand roubles, or five hundred pounds; and I believe he spoke the truth.

With respect to the pedlers, here denominated merchants, they in truth ought to be taxed severely, as well in regard to the goods they bring as the price at which they are sold, the articles being such as are of light burthen, or will return the greatest profit. The ignorance of the aborigines is such, and their thoughtlessness of the future so great, that they prefer present luxuries to future necessities. The quantity of articles hawked about by the merchants consists of tobacco, spirits, silks, tea, sugar, nankeen, and cotton handkerchiefs. Every Kamtchatdale keeps open house, and upon the arrival of a Russian his door is held open, the

29:Cochrane T-2(1821-22)1824 Kamchadal

661 owner standing by it uncovered, and awaiting the
437 entry of his noble guest, who, making an obeisance
439 to the kasaika or landlady, passes on to the most
441 comfortable part of the dwelling, and divesting
563 himself of the unwieldy clothing so necessary in this part of the world, calls for dinner or supper as the time may be, orders food for his dogs, eats and drinks well, has a bed prepared for him, and takes breakfast, consisting of fine game, fish, and the like. The intermediate time is employed in extorting three or four hundred per cent. profit for his goods, and the only remuneration to his host is a glass of spirits or a leaf of tobacco, in some cases not even a "thank ye," although stress of weather has, unfortunately for them, detained him to partake of their hospitality for a week or more.

Were the merchants compelled to take more woollens and linens, some flour or oatmeal, with a sufficient quantity of axes, knives, kettles, twine, nets, and other implements of great necessity, there would be less objection to their proceeding round the Peninsula, and less inducement for officers to do so. Tobacco, it is true, is an article of great demand as well as of great necessity; tea and sugar are also in considerable demand, though, probably, too much money is lavished upon both these articles, by the Kamtchatdales; as also upon silks, nankeens, and fine cottons. A great benefit would arise from the establishment of a general fair in Kamtchatka, to be held at St. Peter and St. Paul's, as well as from two or three provincial fairs to be held upon a certain day at certain places.

29:Cochrane T-2 (1821-22) 1824 Kamchadal

000 each family of the aborigines be compelled to take from the government one pood of flour per month, at the price, say, of a sable or fox skin. The result would be, that government would issue an extra six thousand poods of flour at an expense of sixty thousand roubles, in return for which they would receive six thousand skins, worth at least ninety thousand roubles; leaving a gross profit of four times the price of the present yasack, and actually assisting the Kamtchatdales by the abandonment of a direct tax of half the amount—to say nothing of the benefits which would accrue from such a measure to the females and children who are now left for many days without tasting any other food than bad fish or the bark of trees. I do not know what effect a poll-tax may have upon the animal frame, but it appears to be no incitement to procreation. In Kamtchatka it is the same as in Mexico; a single man pays a heavy tax, a married man a heavier, and a father the heaviest of all. Such conduct is bad policy on the part of government, and carries with it more the appearance of a wish to extinguish than to increase the population of Siberia.

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I have already commented upon the evil effects arising from forced levies, and forced services; of the transport of flour, salt, spirits, the post, as well as officers from one place to another without any remuneration to the inhabitants. Of the conduct of these travelling gentlemen, high and low, it will be sufficient to give a specimen. The officer, upon arriving at a village, is received by the Toion or

29:Cochrane T-2 (1821-22) 1824 Kamchadal

437 Chief, and conducted to the warmest and cleanest
563 part of the yourte. His upper garments are taken
374 from him, cleared of the snow and put out in the
661 open air for the night; it being understood that
R the colder the dress is put on in a cold country,
177 the warmer it ultimately becomes. The landlady, or
.66 Toionsha, is also engaged in scraping the boots of the travellers, to prevent the heat of the room from melting the snow which adheres to them. The best provisions are then got ready as fast as possible, either for dinner or supper, as the time may suit. The Toion then comes in with a reluctant smile and a pair of handsome sables, and bowing to the officer, places them upon the table for his acceptance. Dinner being at length served up, the officer may be considerate enough to give the Toion a glass of spirits, as also to permit the family to partake of the tea-leavings. Having finished his dinner, the officer asks the Toion if the chase has been good, and how many sables he has got, probably two, four or six, which he accordingly takes for as many handkerchiefs, pieces of nankeen, pounds of tobacco, or a small quantity of tea and sugar. The dogs of the village are at last ordered out and the officer departs, in perfect complacency with his conduct and condescending demeanour.

000 I have never been able to ascertain the exact number of animals annually caught in the peninsula, but suppose they cannot fall short of thirty thousand, worth at least two hundred thousand roubles. One